

MINNESOTA'S



COVID-19 RECOVERY BUDGET

Indigenous Education for All

Ensuring that all Minnesota students from prekindergarten through grade 12 learn about American Indian history, culture and language is critical to ensuring equitable learning opportunities and supporting students' success academically and as a citizen and neighbor. Minnesota's K-12 Academic Standards have included the contributions of Minnesota's American Indian tribes and communities since 2009.

In their COVID-19 Recovery Budget proposal, Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan advocated to fully fund Indigenous Education for All, including resources to remove barriers for educators and school leaders as they implement the academic standards and provide instruction to Minnesota students.

Educators and school leaders have expressed that a hurdle to successfully implementing the academic standards includes access to and availability of curricular resources specific to the cultural heritage and contemporary contributions of American Indians, with an emphasis on Minnesota's tribal nations. They have also shared their need for additional support from experts in the field and professional development so that as educators themselves, they are knowledgeable and prepared to nurture and educate students on the rich history of Minnesota's tribal nations and communities, and the experiences, contributions, and perspectives of their tribal neighbors and classmates.

During the 2021 legislative session, Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan successfully negotiated for \$1.3 million over the biennium for:

- The development of curricular resources for Minnesota school districts and charter schools to access.
- Additional state-level expert support on implementing the academic standards specific to Indigenous education.
- Improving the process for the state to consult with the Tribal Nations Education Committee (TNEC).

WHAT'S INCLUDED



Professional Support

Two positions will be added at the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to support districts in implementing the academic standards for Indigenous education and to oversee the curricular resources development. One position will be housed in the Academic Standards, Instruction and Assessment division, while the other will be part of the Office of American Indian Education. The positions will collaborate with other teaching and learning staff on the connections between Indigenous education and the academic content areas, conduct professional development for teachers and school leaders, develop guidance and best practices on teaching Indigenous education, work collaboratively with tribal nation partners on curricular and instructional materials, and be available for district and charter school technical assistance.



Curricular Resources

The COVID-19 Recovery Budget includes funding to create curricular resources for schools. The curricular resources will build on the foundation of the academic standards that include the contributions of Minnesota's American Indian tribes and communities and be available for all Minnesota school districts and charter schools.



Supporting the Tribal Nations Education Committee

The TNEC is a group of tribally appointed representatives focused on education for Minnesota's American Indian students. By statute, MDE is required to consult with TNEC on all matters relating to Minnesota's American Indian education programs and students. Dedicated funding for these services will allow TNEC to more comprehensively strategically plan for the next few years. It is expected this funding will allow TNEC to add a staff person to help organize and structure ESSA Tribal Consultation and assist schools and districts in this process.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

The COVID-19 Recovery Budget funds the development of a new Tribal Relations Training program for school leaders. This professional development will be created in partnership with Minnesota's tribal nations and will help school leaders understand their obligations related to tribal consultation and how they can best support American Indian students.

The budget also included important updates to the Minnesota Indian Teacher Training Program (MITTP), which provides scholarships to American Indian students who are pursuing any prekindergarten through grade 12 career in an educational setting. In addition to teaching degrees, other eligible academic programs include, but are not limited to, American Indian language and culture educators, early childhood educators, counseling or mental health services, paraprofessional services, administration, school healthcare and social work.